

Message Text

SECRET

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22/61

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 SAM-01 SAJ-01 PA-01

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O 260157Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2458

INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TOKYO 14327

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR TEXT PARA 1)

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, JA, MARR

SUBJECT: MIG-25 EXPLOITATION

REF: TOKYO 14315

1. AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRGEN YAMAZAKI AND SECURITY DIVISION CHIEF SATO INFORMED DCM DURING EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 25 THAT ALTHOUGH FINAL GOJ DECISION NOT YET FORMALLY APPROVED (DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTINUE OVER WEEKEND BETWEEN FOREIGN OFFICE AND DEFENSE AGENCY), IT VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT GOJ WOULD REQUEST US (PROBABLY ON SEPT 27) TO TERMINATE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN EXPLOITATION OF MIG25 BY MIDNIGHT SEPTEMBER 28 (TOKYO TIME); AFTER THAT TIME, HOWEVER, US EXPERTS WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATION THROUGH INDIRECT ARRANGEMENTS (E.G., THROUGH ADVICE AND CONSULTATION WITH JASDF TECHNICIANS AND EXAMINATION OF PARTS AT OFF-SITE LOCATIONS). YAMAZAKI STATED THAT THIS QUESTION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH PRIME MINISTER ON SEPT 25 WHO TOOK POSITION THAT

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PLANE SHOULD BE RETURNED TO SOVIETS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT

US DIRECT ACCESS SHOULD BE TERMINATED ON DAY WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER KOSAKA MEETS WITH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO IN NEW YORK (SOMETIME ON SEPTEMBER 28 NEW YORK TIME).

2. SATO TOLD DCM THAT CURRENT JDA PLANS FOR EXPLOITATION AT HYAKURI INVOLVE TWO STAGES: FIRST, REASSEMBLY OF AIRCRAFT AND QTE BASIC SURVEYS UNQTE (I.E., CERTAIN MEASUREMENTS AND ELECTRONIC CHECKS) AND SECOND, QTE SYSTEMS CHECKS UNQTE, INCLUDING FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM. SATO URGED THAT DURING PERIOD SEPT 26 THROUGH MIDNIGHT SEPT 28 US EXPERTS MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF TIME TO COMPLETE PRIORITY CHECKS. DIRECT AND OVERT PRESENCE OF US PERSONNEL DURING THIS PERIOD, HE SAID, COULD BE DEFENDED BY GOJ AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE RELOCATION OF AIRCRAFT FROM HAKODATE TO HYAKURI.

3. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, SATO EXPLAINED TO DCM THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS HAD TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION FACT THAT IN MAJORITY OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN WESTERN EUROPE, AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN RETURNED WITHIN ONE MONTH. GOJ THEREFORE HAS NOW REACHED POINT WHERE IT MUST INFORM SOVIETS THAT PLANE WILL BE RETURNED ONCE ITS EXAMINATION COMPLETED. THIS WILL BE DONE WHEN KOSAKA MEETS GROMYKO (COMMENT: GOJ UNDOUBTEDLY EXPECTS GROMYKO TO PRESS ON THIS POINT BEFORE MOVING TO DISCUSSION OF OTHER POSSIBLE ITEMS). ONCE SUCH NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO RETURN GIVEN THEN, IN FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEW, MATTER WILL MOVE TO STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS DURING WHICH IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE FOR GOJ TO PERMIT CONTINUED DIRECT ACCESS BY US PERSONNEL. ALTHOUGH DCM ASKED WHETHER KOSAKA WOULD INDICATE APPROXIMATE DATE ON WHICH PLANE WOULD BE RETURNED AND WHETHER JDA HAD MADE ANY ESTIMATE OF TIME REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ITS INVESTIGATION AND PREPARE PLANE FOR SHIPMENT TO USSR, SATO COULD NOT RESPOND ON THESE POINTS.

4. DCM EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR TIGHT DEADLINE WHICH WOULD BE IMPOSED BY ANTICIPATED GOJ DECISION. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH US EXPERTS WOULD OF COURSE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF WHATEVER TIME AVAILABLE FOR DIRECT ACCESS, WHETHER PRIORITY CHECKS COULD BE COMPLETED IN NEXT THREE DAYS WOULD BE CRITICAL FACTOR ON WHICH CAREFUL TECHNICAL JUDGEMENT REQUIRED. HE URGED THAT GOJ RETAIN SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR DIRECT ACCESS TO COMPLETE SUCH PRIORITY CHECKS.

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5. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH COMUSJAPAN GENERAL GALLIGAN, DCM INFORMED SATO THAT 10-MAN TEAM OF US EXPERTS WOULD ARRIVE AT HYAKURI SEPTEMBER 26 AND THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO EXPEDITE COMPLETION OF ON-SITE INVESTIGATIONS. HE ALSO CONVEYED TO SATO, GENERAL GALLIGAN'S ASSURANCE THAT US TECHNICIANS WILL OF COURSE TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF WHATEVER TIME REMAINS FOR DIRECT ACCESS BUT EMPHASIZED GALLIGAN'S CONCERN THAT THIS BE SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE US TO COMPLETE THE JOB.

6. EMBASSY WILL BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AT
EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 27.
HODGSON

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